



Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines

NEW YORK **PRESS RELEASE**

PR-KOT-001-2018

10 April 2018

Valor and Heroism of Filipino-American WWII Veterans Remembered by the Filipino Community in New York



WWII Veterans Mr. Sostenes Rivera (Left photo) and Mr. Pablo Barros (Center Right photo) recounted their experience during the World War II and the Death March in 1942 during the Commemoration of the 76th Anniversary of Araw ng Kagitingan. Consul Armand R. Talbo of the Philippine Consulate General New York led the commemoration and visited Mr. Barros in his home. Mrs. Barros (right) holds the photograph of the young Mr. Barros.

New York, 7 April 2018-- The Philippine Consulate General in New York, in cooperation with the Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia, Inc. (FECGP) and the Philippine Community of Southern New Jersey, commemorated the 76th Anniversary of Araw ng Kagitingan with a Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Bataan Death March Memorial in Cooper River Park, Cherry Hill, New Jersey which was followed by a commemorative program at the Philippine Center in Southern New Jersey in Stratford, New Jersey on 9 April 2017.

The event was highlighted by the presence of 98 year-old WWII Veteran Mr. Sostenes E. Rivera. Commander of Veteran of Foreign War, Restituto Estancio and four other retired Filipino-American Navy servicemen also attended the event. The Consulate invited the thirty-one (31) registered WWII veterans residing in the ten states under its jurisdiction and a number responded with appreciation but due to age or mobility problems were unable to attend the event.

For more information, visit www.newyorkpcg.org and www.facebook.com/PHConsulateNY

Mr. Sostenes Rivera narrated his presence during the surrender of Corregidor, his march to Manila, incarceration in Azcarraga and his subsequent joining of the guerilla forces three months after his release.

In his remarks during the wreath laying ceremony and the program, Consul Armand Talbo honored the heroism, spirit of sacrifice and bravery of veterans and other veterans of wars who fought for our country. He called the younger generation to draw inspiration from their sacrifice and continue the march, this time for the prosperity of the country.

After the event, Consul Talbo and Cultural Officer Olivia Osias-Magpile visited in his home another veteran Mr. Pablo Barros, a 94-year-old former military officer who was constrained by the cold weather from attending the outdoor activities. Mr. Barros recounted his personal encounter with Lt. General Takashi Sakai of the Japanese Army after the Fall of Bataan.

The wreath-laying ceremony has become a tradition of the Consulate and the various Filipino-American groups in Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, most of whom have family connection with WWII veterans. It is an occasion where Fil-Am leaders and relatives of veterans converge together to celebrate and thank veterans and servicemen for their valor and sacrifice.

The Death March Monument located in Cooper River Park was dedicated in June 1998 coinciding with the 100th anniversary of Philippine declaration of independence from Spain. END



Consulate officials, World War II veterans, retired servicemen, and leaders of the Fil-Am community in New Jersey and Philadelphia commemorate Araw ng Kagitingan.

For more information, visit www.newyorkpcg.org and www.facebook.com/PHConsulateNY



Fil-Am community leaders join in honoring the veterans of World War II.

For more information, visit www.newyorkpcg.org and www.facebook.com/PHConsulateNY